5/77

1977

MAY EDITION

The Spark Gap

VOL III NO. V

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Here we go again, back on the mill for another chat. With the auction behind us we can now put our efforts into the upcoming field, both regular and mini, plus the other business of the club. It sure has been a busy month since the last edition and your editor is wondering how the press time has come up so fast.

At the April 7th meeting we had Stew Perry, W1BB, talking to us about 160 mtr. communications and he also brought his old Spark Gap to show us how it worked. To go one step further, back in the days when they used such devices for transmitting, they didn't know where they were transmitting to, no frequency allocations in those days. One side of the Gap went up to an antenna and the other side went down to a ground, that was 'modern radio' in those days. But, if you were there to hear that ZAP of the spark gap when the key was depressed, you didn't need a receiver to hear it. Wow! what a racket. How fortunate we are to have such modern equipment as we now have and be thankful to such pioneers in radio like Stew Perry.

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A cordial welcome to new members to the club. These fellows are Maurice Puente, Gene Balinski, Joe Ring, Farrell Woods, Tzvi Langermann, H. James Brown, and Dennis Wortman. As members of the club you are entitled to all its benefits which include use of the station in the club room. Also, if you are in question, ask for help, there will be ample help available for you.

ACTIVITIES

For the sixth consecutive year, members of the Wellesley ARS were out "in force" to provide communications for Wellesley's Recreation Department Annual Road Race, held on April 3rd.

The road race exercise was again, a tremendous success! we were congratulated not only by many people listening to our radios at the finish line, but also by Recreation Department officials. All in all, it was a most worthwhile project.

Left to Right, Marshall Cannell, WA1DMC, Charlie Chabot, WA1GBF, and Walter Lenk, K1YTY charting plans for the race

Congratulations go to Marshall Cannell WA1DMC, Dave Smith, WB1AKL, Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, Gordon Kingsley, WA1TAM, Bill Downing, WA1PQY, Chris Wiles, WA1RGA, Roger Wilmarth, WA1RSV, Walter Lenk, K1YTY, Charlie Chabot, WA1GBF, Dave Goldman, W1YSW and Adolfo Saldarriaga, HK4BVE. If I have forgotten anybody, one thousand pardons. 73,

Walt Lenk K1YTY

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MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

May 5th at 7:30 PM
May 19th at 7:30 PM

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

QSY PLEASE, de W1TKZ

The following controversial column has caused a lot of indignation amongst the ham fraternity and a reprint of it is in order so you can be current on this thing. It is a syndicated column by Jack Anderson as it appeared in the Boston Globe on Apr. 4th.

" Washington: The FCC is quietly stifling the millions of voices that jam the CB radio frequencies. An estimated nine million licensees--truck drivers, teen-agers, housewives, even a former President's wife --now operate more than 20 million CB sets. The airwaves have become so crowded that the CB industry has appealed for more frequencies. These would have to be taken from the ham radio operators, who add up to no more than 300,000. Yet the Commission has favored the few over the many.

The 300,000 hams have 100 times more airspace than is available to the nine million CB enthusiasts. The hams also have a lock on the higher frequencies, which are free from interference.

According to one confidential report, the hams now control more frequencies than all the nation's police and fire departments combined, plus all commercial and educational FM broadcasters, plus all the TV stations on the VHF channels in Los Angeles and New York City.

The telecommunications policymakers at the White House have quietly notified the FCC on three occasions that there would be no objections to expanding the airwaves for CB users.

Still, the commission has refused to take the hint. One reason may be that CB radio is regulated by officials who, according to a confidential report, have traditionally been hams. The report, prepared for Rep. Elliot Levitas, (D-GA.), describes this arrangement as "the wolf guarding the flock."

The opposition to giving the CB industry a greater share of the airwaves has been generated largely by the American Radio Relay League, which the report describes as a lobbying organization representing ham operators.

The league has fired off a special bulletin to its members, urging them to utilize every league resource to prevent the incursion of CB buffs into their airspace.

Footnote: The FCC's chief engineer, Raymond Spence, is a lifetime member of the league. Yet he has made decisions detrimental to the CB industry. He denied that his membership is a conflict of interest."

(Ed note: In response to the above article, many have written letters in protest to these half truths and suggest you, if so inclined, write this Jack Anderson guy and state your opinion. This writer has written his.

Harmonics About Town

As we get into the month of May our calendar year is moving right along at a pretty fast clip. It is therefore fitting to take a moment or two to reflect at what has transpired in April.

First of all, our thanks for the guys who gave their time to help man the communications center at the Museum of Science during that exercise. The entire exhibit was a success and both the Wellesley and the Middlesex clubs earned the distinct[illegible] of attaining the "BRASS POUNDERS LEAGUE" certificate.

While this was going on, other members of the club were busy preparing for the auction held on April 16th at the Wellesley High School. Because of their devotedness, the auction went off as smooth as silk and people leaving our auction had nothing but praise for the Wellesley Club. I am sure they will look forward to next years auction with great anticipation. Our thanks to all who participated in this event and a special thank you to auctioneers Eric Poole, WA1RKT, Dave Aronovitz K1LPI and Joe Borrow, K1GFH. These three guys really kept things going at a rapid pace and were a tremendous help to the success of this auction. It might be interesting to note that both Eric and Dave are not even members of our club, and Joe was about to go on vacation but remained home an extra day so he could give us some help. Boy, that is surely the spirit of hams in this hobby, they will always be counted on when they are needed. Their help was greatly appreciated. Details of the results of the auction are available

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The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JAMES W. HATHERLEY

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUATE TO THE SPARK GAP AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION AND ENCOURAGED PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY-$5.00. CLUB YEAR RUNNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY,
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS 02181

to members of the Wellesley ARS at the club meetings. It was a joint effort of all the members and was also a lot of fun along the way. WELL DONE AGAIN GUYS.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

At the April 21st meeting nominations for the Executive Committee were made in preparation of the actual election which will be held on May 19th at that meeting. In order for you to make a wise vote, the people in contention are named below. This group will head the club for the period from September 1977 through to September 1978. Nominations are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Don Chesley WA1HVS
Chris Wiles WA1RGA

VICE-PRES: Chris Wiles WA1RGA
Joe McGrath WA1JIR

RECORDING SECRETARY: Joe McGrath WA1JIR
Scott Nacey WA1YOJ
Nina Brodie

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY:
Dick Paret WA1ZLQ (CONT'D)

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT'D.....

Correspondence secretary Glen Brodie WB1BVN

FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN:
Dick Magnanti WB1BUQ
Glenn Brodie WB1BVN
Kevin Kelly WA1YHV

OPERATION ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:
Bill Downing WA1PQY
Jim Murphy WB1BUR
Kevin Kelly WA1YHJ

TREASURER:
Jim Hatherley WA1TBY
Dick Paret WA1ZLQ
Glenn Brodie WB1BVN

You will note that there are some positions where one person has been nominated while his name has also been nominated for other positions too. In the election, if this person is elected for more than one of his running positions, he may only accept one and the runner-up will automatically assume the unfilled seat. In cases of a tie vote for any seat, a runoff will be made at the meeting to break the tie. So there you have it, choose wisely and good luck to all those nominees.

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At the meeting of April 21st, the new Constitution was voted to go into effect. With the club growing as it has, it was important to create new executive seats in order to have the club's activities run more smoothly. You should have a copy of this new Constitution by now, but if you don't, you may pick one up at the club.

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ARRL BULLETIN NR. 639 dated March 31st:

The government of Saudi Arabia has authorized amateur radio station 7Z1AB to conduct third party communications with all amateur radio stations in the U.S.A. This third party agreement is effective immediately. All third party communications must be in accordance with section 97.114 of the FCC regulations. AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR. 641 dated April 14th:

New amateur rules for purity of emissions have been adopted by FCC and go into effect on April 15. As of that date, harmonics and other spurious signals must be reduced forty decibels below the mean power of the fundamental for transmissions on frequencies less than 30 mhz, and must not exceed 50 milliwatts. Above 30 Mhz, the

ANNOUNCEMENTS, Cont'd....

spurious radiations must be reduced 60 decibels, and must not exceed 25 microwatts. The action is contained in a first report and order, Docket 20777. No action has yet been taken by FCC with respect to modes and bandwidths which were also discussed in that docket. ARRL has filed two petitions with FCC concerning this first report and order, one requesting a nine month stay of the effective date of the new rules, and one requesting reconsideration of the whole matter. Needless to say, the rules will be in effect until action is taken on one or both requests, but the Commission stated its belief that the majority of bona-fide amateur equipment readily meets the standards and should not require extensive modification. AR

- -

MARTHA GAUTHIER, WB1BUU, is still in the New England Medical Center and is coming along fine. Hopefully, she may be at home by the time you read this note. She did say to give the entire club her heartfelt thanks for the numerous cards which you have sent in to her. She has them adorning her walls in the room. Martha's telephone number in her room is 956-7363 if you would like to give her a call and brighten up her day. Also, visiting hours are from 12:00 to 8:30 PM. Through the help of Ted Levin, Martha has been studying for her Technician ticket, and hopes to get on 2 meters. We certainly hope to hear you on that band soon Martha.

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Sadly, some people have to go their way and now we must say, so long, to Bob Arnold WD4AOH, who will be moving to South Carolina on June 1st. We have been lucky to have had Bob with us, even though it was a short stay, but nevertheless, we wish you Godspeed Bob and good luck in your new surroundings.

- -

HEARD recently on a local radio program a cooking expert was giving her recipe for Vichyssoise. "First, you take a leek....".

- -

To quickly convert Fahrenheit to Celsius subtract 32 and divide the remainder by two. It's not exact, but close enough if you are driving a car and can't do long division at the same time.

For Sale:

Heathkit Apache(10-80 mtrs-180 watts) transmitter 100.00
SP 600 Super Pro Rcvr .55 to 54 MHz rack model 150.00
Johnson Electronic T/R switch 15.00
Vibroplex "Original" bug 20.00
Heathkit HD-10 keyer 20.00
Motorola 41V hi-band transceiver(base), including couple of junk strips 15.00
Desk touch tone telephone(brown) 25.00
2 mtr trunk lid mount antenna 12.00
6 mtr trunk lid mount antenna 16.00
SB-10 ssb adapter, spoken for but may be available.
Will consider reasonable offers for any or all. Am looking for a 6' or 8' utility trailer.
Any of above, call Hal, K1HK 421 6660 or 429 6504.

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For Sale: Drake 2 mtr transceiver TR22C w/6 xtl channels, rubber duck, ac/dc cor in mint condition. 175.00 Doug, WA1UMQ 237-3315

- -

Looking for Vibroplex electronic key or equivilent. Call John Troisi, 391-5167.

- -

For Sale: Heathkit HW 101 transceiver w/ power supply. Xmtr needs some work, rcvr fine. 295.00 Charlie Chabot WA1GBF, 235-1012.

- -

MORE NEW TICKETS: Gosh, with the way things progress, it is hard to keep current when it comes to getting the Spark Gap into print. We do have Dick Ruggeiro, WA1LZN, to Technician grade, to Generals we have John McReynolds, WA1WDE, Eric Rasmussen WA1WDD and Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ. David Curry, WA1TAK now has his advanced. Congratulations fellows and good luck in your new frequency privileges.

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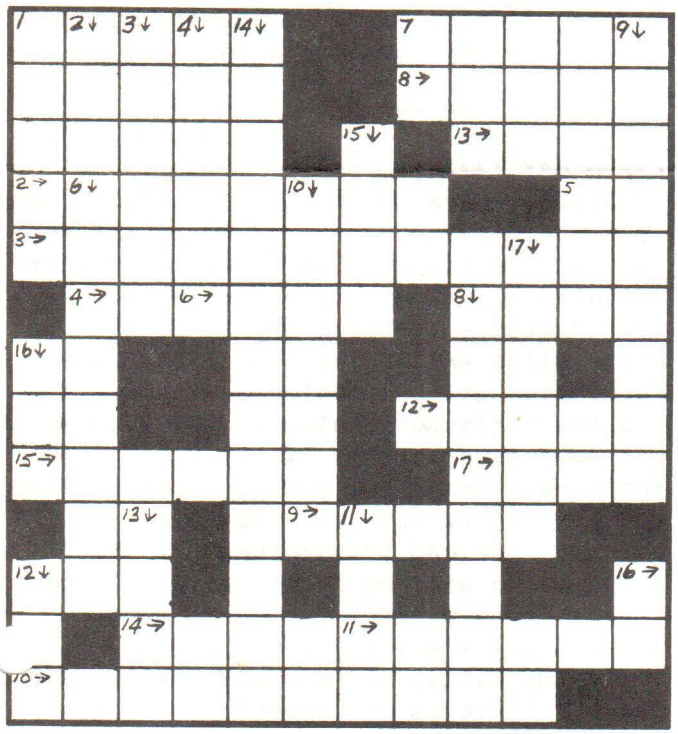
Which brings to mind that the cost for these upgrade exams are free and many of you should be thinking of taking advanta of this while it lasts. It just means a trip to the Customs House Tower to FCC.

MIND-BENDER



ACROSS

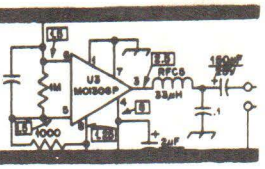
1) rectifing device (5)
2) solinoid keying used in RTTY (8)
3) polarized capacitor (12
4) electronic tech. (2)
5) amplification factor 2
6) ckt. brkr. in over load position (4)
7) thousandth ampere (5)
8) hex wrench (5)
9) electrical potential 3
10) feed-back circuit 10
11) freq. at which an amplifier gain falls off sharply (6)
12) solid state device found in VR's (5)
13) wire
14) common wave form
15) abbrev. for frequency
16) ionospheric layer chiefly responsible for nite propagation
17) a variety of magnetic switch

DOWN

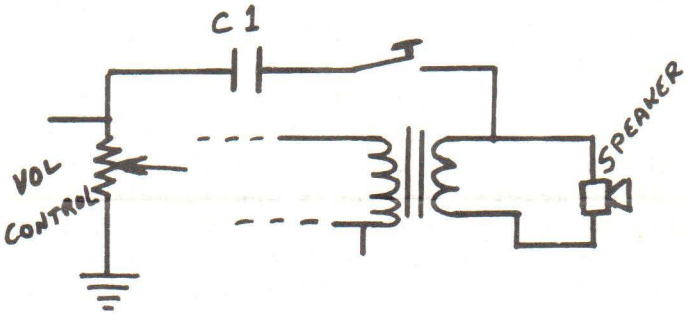
1) closely packed (5)
2) charged atom (3)
3) wall power source (6)
4) type current flow (6)
5) abbrev. microphone (3)
6) part of an atom (8)
7) thousandth ampere (2)
8) capacity for performing work (6)
9) coil (8)
10) slow charge (7)
11) dialectric material used in capacitors (4)
12) unit of conductance (3)
13) type memory storage (4)
14) used in a battery (11)
15) closed antenna (4)
16) highest freq. of propagation (3)
17) wire pretreated with soldier (6)

(FIND THE ANSWERS ELSE WHERE IN THE SPARK GAP)

Tek Tok



Make your receiver into a code practice oscillator.



Add C-1 and your key between the speaker and top of volume control will attain this result. C-1 can be any value between 100 to 500 Pf.

- -

If any of our readers has an item for TEK TOK, send it in so we can share your idea with the rest of the club.

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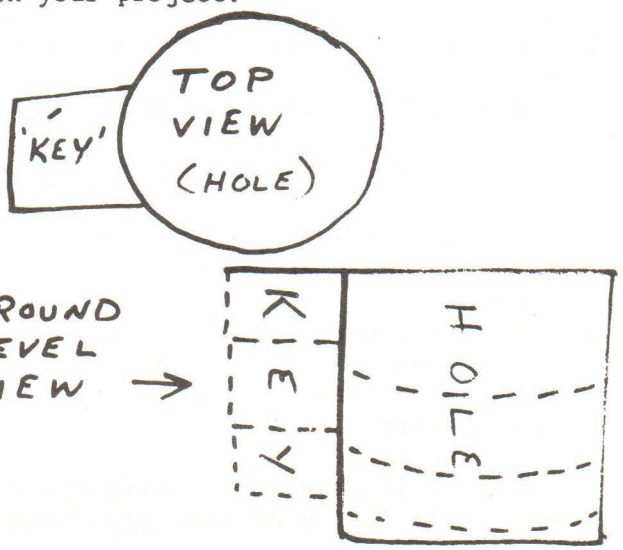
If you are planning to dig a post hole, perhaps for a concrete base for a tower, here is an idea that will save you loads of back breaking problems. Whatever the size of your hole, whether it be 2' 3' or 4', add a little 'key hole type trench' to one side of the hole to be dug. As you go down into the hole, cut into the key for use as a step, the deeper you go down, the lower the step becomes until you have gone down as far as you desire. This will give you some elbow room as you shovel and will fill in just as nicely when you are through with your project.



Activities

MINI-FIELD-DAY

The mini-field-day is scheduled to begin at 8:30 AM, Saturday May 21, 1977 at Wellesley College behind the Science Building. We will meet at the club and go to the site from there. Those interested in attending, sign up at the club or call me at 655 5744. Please bring box lunches when you come.

We plan operating at least three HF stations. The initial job will be to set up the stations, build three dipoles, one for 80 meters, 40 meters and 15 meters, and get the generators running. Once this is done we will begin operating. Around 4:00 PM we will begin to pack up the stations and then go home.

I hope to see a lot of novices and other members who have not been to a field day. It will be a lot of fun as well as a good experience operating in the field.

73,

Glenn Brodie WB1BVN

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MINI VHF DXpedition.

The mini-VHF Dxpedition is planned for the weekend of June 4-5. We will be leaving Wellesley at 7:00 AM and probably arriving in the Waterville area (exit 28 off Rte 93), about 10:00, where we will head straight up the mountain. An hour or so before sunset we will leave the summit for the base camp at Black Mountain Lake. The peak itself is 3950 feet high, the lake is 2000 feet and the area where we will park the cars is about 1200 feet. The base camp will consist of a cabin on the lake which will sleep 10-12 campers and the rest of us will tent-it around the cabin. Community-type meals will be served so there's no need to bring food but in the interest of being well prepared, you should pack:

small day pack(used for bicycling)
Plastic water bottle(qt. or pint)
Hiking shoes or work boot(no sneakers)
Flashlight
Complete change of dry clothes
two extra pair of socks
rain gear
relatively warm sleeping bag
ground pad
a few chocolate bars
Warm jacket
bug repellant
personal items(camera, knife etc.)

This trail is a very tame climb and of

Mini DXpedition Cont'd.....

course no accidents are anticipated but there is a hospital in the adjacent town and we'll have along with us, a certifi Red Cross Volunteer.

There may be a few other things you'd like to add to this list. Just keep in mind the key to good hiking is to travel light yet warm and dry. So, pack up your radios, fishing poles, fire-side ghost tales and I'll see you on the trail.

De Joe McGrath WA1JIR

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FIELD DAY '77'

Club members should be prepared to sign up for Fidld Day (June 25-26) at the May 5th club meeting, or send written notice of intention to attend prior to the May 19th meeting. Letters should be sent to Chris Wiles WA1RGA, at the club, 324 Washington St., Wellesley Ma. or you should see Chris personally at the club to get your name down on his list. If we don't hear from you, you will not be able to attend. We have to have this list to prepare food and transportation. Your cooperation will be appreciated. If you have a truck or car, let Chris know.

- -

Incidentally, you can sign up for the other activities aforementioned at the meeting of May 5th, at the club.

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Did you know that Joe Ring WA1WTM, passed his Tech exam recently? Congratz Joe.

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OFFICIAL ARRL BULLETIN NR 642, Apr. 21st.

This year the ARRL National Convention will take place in Toronto, Ontario, June 3-5, 1977. The Sheraton Centre will be HQ for this event, marking just the second time an ARRL National Convention has taken place in Canada. Among the many scheduled features are exhibits, forums, contests, homebrew, and special problem solving sessions for handicapped operation. Arrl has the necessary Canadian DCC Form 16-52 to apply for permission to operate portable while in Canada. Inquiries regarding the conventions should be directed to the ARRL National Convention, Box 1011, Station C, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1H 2Z4. Further details appear in April and May QST. AR

Ed note: This could be a good spot for your vacation and combine both radio and sight seeing at the same time.

MORE ON FIELD DAY '77'

Overlooked in the earlier report of Chris Wiles regarding field day was that will conduct this years activity out on Long Island again. After having seen alternative locations, it was deemed best that the Island would be the better spot for several reasons. I have been told that this year we will use still another location on the island and if it is like last year's, it should be another whopper of a weekend, especially for those who haven't been out to the island before.

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Calendar

ATTENTION!!!

The club station has been repaired and is now open for your operating pleasure. We have established a schedule for W1TKZ on a trial basis in order to see how many people will use the facility and so that adjustments can be made to the timetable. Remember, the station will only be opened up regularly if you, the club members, use it regularly. Several control operators have donated their time to oversee the success of this program and expect that club members will avail themselves the opportunity. Don't let the prospect of a low turnout force us to abandon the schedule altogether. PARTICIPATE!

Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Friday
1-4 PM	7:30-10	8-10	8:30-10	7:30-10 PM

Saturday CLOSED* SKED STARTS MAY 9, 1977
*Except during contests, drills or other events.

Thursdays are club meeting nights, and club station may or may not be open on those nights; the station will be closed on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month however.

GUIDELINES

1. Every club member must be checked out on use of the equipment before he/she can be permitted to use it regularly. The control operator on duty will instruct and make note of those members that have been cleared on tune-up procedures.
2. W1TKZ will be keeping a full log of all contacts. Each member must completely log each transmission, sign his/her name, and callsign on log sheet. Questions? Ask control operator.
3. The club callsign, W1TKZ, will be used at all times. No individual station call signs.

CLUB STATION RULES...CONT'D....

4. The member using the station may operate under the privileges authorized by his/her own license. The control op. reserves the right to see a copy of your license and membership card.
5. QSLing is done by the corresponding secretary on an incoming basis only. The executive committee will decide shortly whether we should send cards to those who have not yet sent us confirmation of the QSO.

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We plan to do a considerable amount of upgrading station accessories over the next few months which should make operation more convenient. Above all, ENJOY!.

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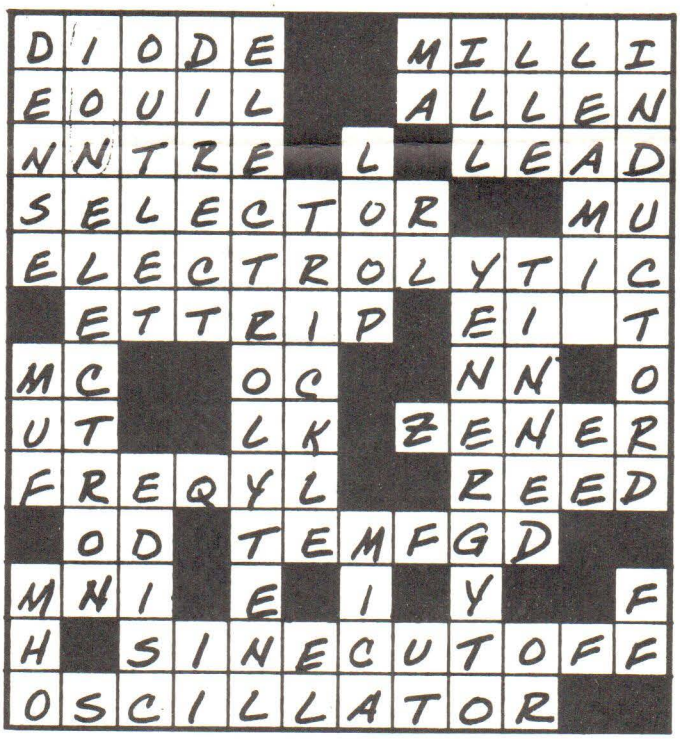
Last year's Sweepstakes results are in!

NX1US (remember that call?) took 3rd place honors in the Eastern Mass. club multi-op phone category out of a field of 6 contenders. As you may or may not recall, we made 426 contacts and 62 sections, not bad for a first club contest effort in which many of our group had never been on the air prior to the contest.

Accolades should also go to Dave, WA1TAK, who finished 1st in the affiliated club cw competition for W.A.R.S. WA1PQY and WA1UTJ were the "sore losers".



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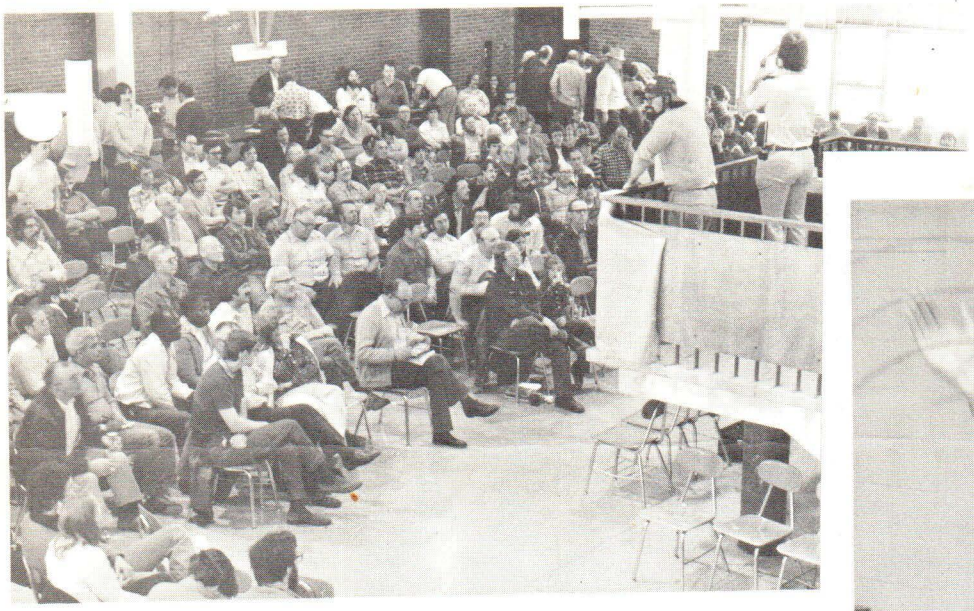
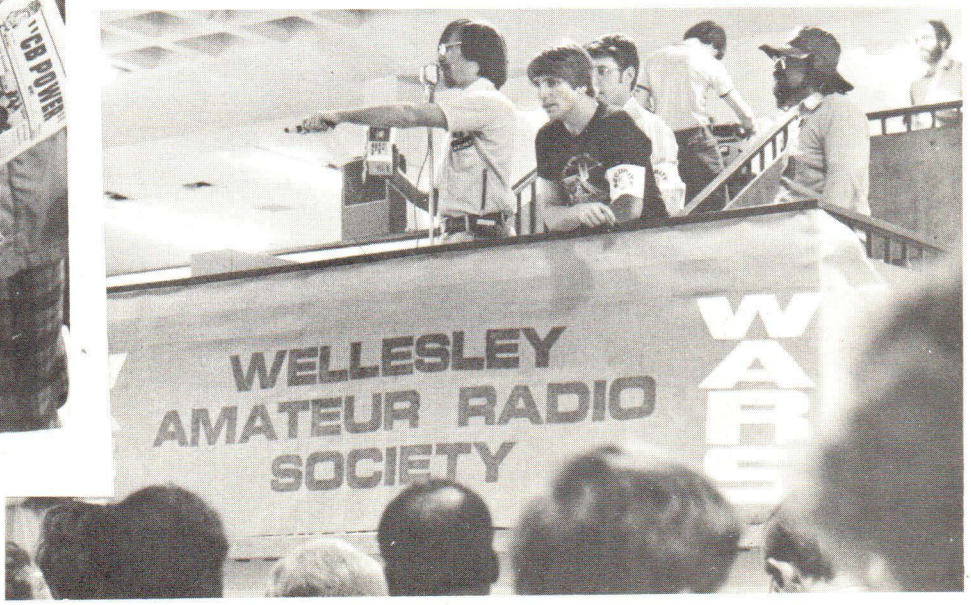


AUCTION SCENES



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